

## **Environmental Commission, March 11, 2018 meeting**

**Attendance:** Ann Marchioni, Rob Edelstein, Phoebe Epstein, Sister Jeanne Goyette, Jane Kinkle, Councilman Jonathan Lace, Douglas Piazza

Discussion: EC Meetings info must be publicly displayed:

Notice in two newspapers

On Bulletin Board

Need statement of compliance

EC can receive donations without qualification, including goods

Doug: that reads like a donation to borough of Caldwell

Answer: Qualification now being sought

Discussion: Talk of merging open space trust committee into EC

Only advisory committee

Money going into Open Space being used to pay off oval debt

Question of whether open space funding can be used to purchase properties

.01 cents on the dollar, separate line item on taxes: money for open space account

Question of whether Borough administrator is required to attend meetings? Would be suggested to attend

How it might change—might EC have more than an advisory role?

Idea of changing ordinance, beyond recommend and advise

**Motion to: that EC should consider to vote and merge the responsibilities of current open space advisory board, motion and seconded, motion carried.**

Question of “what more teeth” we can add to ordinance

Component to require the Borough Administrator present at a quarterly meeting

Suggest an “as-needed” for the administrator

Motion to have borough administrator or designee meet with EC annually and also be available on as-needed basis to discuss potential sites and developments and open space portions of EC.

Motion carried unanimously

Anti-idling

Talking to elementary schools, Kiwanis K-Kids

Update from Doug Tallame (May 12)

Issues with sponsors

Native plant society will not sponsor

Ann is talking to conservation district, meeting with Roseland

Getting money from Conserve Wildlife, not sure how much

Ask Mike at Gelotti?

Morgan Farm, historical society

May come to sell plants

Reaching out to Kiwanis and Grover Cleveland Park Conservancy

Garden Committee

Boy Scout coming next Monday Mar. 19 to discuss

Jane asks whether the downed trees can be used for demarcation of Personette

Camera update

They're up; positioning is off  
Mayor wants it to be police responsibility solely  
Question of where cameras should be placed

#### Earth Day (April 28)

Ann working on this with Sister Jeanne  
Want flyer for Caldwell, West Caldwell and Verona  
Mario believes both recycle outfits can fit there  
Bike swap? Perhaps ask Kris, or James  
James does a sports swap and a musical instrument swap  
West Caldwell does a cleanup  
Highlighting in library, perhaps display, Sustainable Jersey

#### Website

Already changed

#### High school ecology club

Ann trying to meet with them, show them Plastics movie, get them on board

#### Earth share NJ green day challenge

Earth Share NJ, org., umbrella of many environmental commissions in state  
Corporations need sustainability project, could our pollinator garden be one?  
We'll know after March 23

#### Sustainable Jersey grant, about \$850

Money left in there, perhaps to buy seeds to give out at Doug Tallamy talk  
Or plugs from last year?  
Hillcrest donation?

### **New Business**

1. site plans

None

2. ANJEC open space grant?

Ann has some ideas, will consider

Roseland, West Caldwell, Verona—pollinators are decimated; 14% down from last year. Incorporate all four ECs to try to come up with some plan.

Jane suggests: Can we organize a municipal action with the mayor's monarch pledge?

3. April 4th William Paterson Earth Day

Jane and Ann will attend and put up an EC poster, Ann representing Earthshare

April 3, council meeting, start of Earth Month, Investor's Bank, sign presentation

Caldwell University wants to send 12 kids for May 25 service day

The Hidden Life of Trees

Jonathan:

Sustainable Jersey, more points 4C

Improved public engagement in municipal government:

Placed public comment portions at a time when people can attend meetings

Borough's Facebook page may apply

Doug thinks we can qualify for several 10-point areas and it looks like we can

Water Issues

NJ American Water wants to purchase our water system  
Privatize water, pros and cons  
Parent company: American Water part of Marcellus shale fracking  
Also says NJ American water has a very good record in NJ  
Pros: Borough can pay off water debt with huge infusion of cash \$2M  
Cons: lose local control of rates, determined now by state board of local utilities  
Caldwell needs \$4M improvement  
Either Caldwell raises funds to improve it, about 5 years and rates go up  
Or, sell to private co, they improve it in less time but then they make money  
Either way, we'd be getting the same water; the mechanism would change  
Currently, the bulk of the water we get is still from artesian wells  
Suggestion to hire utility lawyer and utility engineer  
We have only one connection, which is a significant issue  
Technical evaluations, plastic liners that cut down on cost?